

File

EMBASSY

11 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

1. In a discussion with Mr. McCone this afternoon, he said that he, Mr. McNamara, and Mr. McGeorge Bundy were all in agreement that the U. S. must continue the bombing actions against North VietNam. He stated that insofar as the policy makers were concerned any bombing action by the United States in response to North Vietnamese counteraction (i. e. retaliation or reprisal) would, he thought, unquestionably be approved and the only problem would be which targets.

2. On the other hand, he stated that he, McNamara, and Bundy felt that we must continue the bombing actions whether or not there was any incident establishing a requirement for response. He stated that under these circumstances there would really be a first-class row at the policy level with Rusk, Ball, Thompson, and others being against such action. He stated that if it gets to this point he will probably return and help argue the point, especially since he was the one to generate it in the first place.

3. I asked him what the time interval was between incidents or how long you would wait after one incident before taking bombing action without an incident. He said he thought about a week would be as long as you could wait. In other words, if there is no incident requiring a reprisal at the end of the next seven days, we should go in on the bombing raid anyway.

M. S. C.

Distribution:

Orig - DDCI (read by Mr. Colby)
1 - Mr. Elder (O-DCI)

Gen. Carter, as Acting DCI, covered this memo orally at morning meeting of 12 Feb. Bell Colby has read this memo.